1 Cor: XV. 4.
Acts XVII. 31
Lks: IV-14

PLAN

OF THE

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

UNDER THE CARE OF THE

SYNODS

OF

VIRGINIA AND NORTH-CAROLINA;

WITH A

Brief Sketch of its History.

RICHMOND:

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1831.

Sec. 5. Every meeting of the Board shall be opened, and closed with prayer.

Sec. 6. At the commencement of each stated spring meeting, the whole plan of the Seminary shall be distinctly read before the Board of Directors.

Sec. 7. The Board shall inaugurate the Professors of the Seminary, and direct what forms shall be used, and what services performed on such occasions.

Sec. 8. Every Director when he first takes his seat, as a member of this Board, shall subscribe the following formula, viz: Approving the plan of the Union Theological Seminary of the General Assembly, under the care of the Synods of Virginia and North Carolina, I solemnly promise that I will faithfully endeavor to carry into effect the views of the Synods, and to promote the great design of the Institution while I hold a seat in this Board.

Sec. 9. The Board of Directors shall inspect the fidelity of the Professors, especially in regard to the doctrines actually taught; and if, after due inquiry and examination, they shall judge that any Professor is either unsound in the faith, opposed to the fundamental principles of Presbyterian church government, immoral in his conduct, unfaithful to his trust, or incompetent to the discharge of his duties, they shall faithfully report him as such to the Synods, at as early a period as possible, or if the longer continuance of a Professor be judged highly dangerous, the Directors may immediately suspend him, and provide for instruction in his place, till the whole business can be reported and submitted to the Synods.

Sec. 10. The Board of Directors shall make in writing, a detailed and faithful report of the state of the Seminary, to both the Synods at their stated annual meetings.

Sec. 11. At every stated meeting of the Board of Directors, unless special circumstances render it inexpedient, there shall be at least one sermon delivered in the presence of the Board, the Professors and Students, by a Director or Directors previously appointed for the purpose.

Sec. 12. At the close of each term an examination of the students shall be held in the presence of the Board, or of a committee appointed for that purpose, to be denominated the examining com-

mittee, who shall determine whether the examination shall be sustained.

Sec. 13. At the close of the third year, the students who shall, with approbation, have gone through the whole course prescribed, and shall have maintained a conversation free from reproach, shall receive a testimonial of approbation signed by the President of the Board and by the Professors.

Article II.

OF THE PROFESSORS.

Section 1. When the Seminary shall be completely organized, there shall not be fewer than three Professorships; one of Theology, one of Oriental Literature, and one of Ecclesiastical History and Polity.

Sec. 2. No person shall be inducted into the office of a Professor, but an ordained minister of the gospel.

Sec. 3. The Professors in this Seminary shall, on their inauguration, enter into the following engagements:

I do sincerely believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

I do sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, as faithfully exhibiting the doctrines taught in the Holy Scriptures.

I do sincerely approve of and adopt the form of Government and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church in these United States, and I do solemnly engage not to teach any thing that appears to me to contradict any doctrine contained in the Confession of Faith, nor to oppose any of the fundamental principles of Presbyterian Church Government, while I continue a Professor in this Seminary.

Sec. 4. The salaries of the Professors shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 5. The Professors shall introduce their lectures and recitations with prayer; in addition to those daily seasons of prayer in which all the students shall unite.

Sec. 6. Each Professor shall lay before the Board of Directors, as soon as practicable after his appointment, a detailed exhi-

bition of the system and method which he proposes to pursue, and the subjects which he proposes to discuss, in conducting the studies of the youth that shall come under his care; and in this system he shall make such alterations or additions as the Board shall direct; so that eventually the whole course through which the pupils shall be carried, shall be no other than that which the Board of Directors shall have approved and sanctioned. And as often as any Professor shall think that variations and additions of importance may be advantageously introduced into his course of teaching, he shall submit the same to the Board of Directors for their approbation or rejection.

Sec. 7. Any Professor intending to resign his office, shall give six month's notice of such intention to the Board of Directors, unless they release him from this obligation.

Sec. 8. The Professors of the institution shall be considered a faculty. They shall meet at such seasons as they shall judge proper. In every meeting the Professor of Theology shall preside, if he be present. If he be not present, a president shall be chosen pro tempore. The faculty shall choose a clerk, and keep accurate records of all their proceedings, which records shall be laid before the Directors at every meeting of the Board. The President of the faculty shall call a meeting whenever he shall judge it expedient, or whenever he shall be requested to do so by any other member. By the faculty regularly convened, shall be determined the hours and seasons at which the classes shall attend the Professors severally, so as to prevent interference and confusion, and to afford to the pupils the best opportunities of improvement. The faculty shall attend to, and decide in all cases of discipline, and all questions of order, as they shall arise. They shall agree on the rules of order, decorum, and duty (not inconsistent with the plan of union agreed on by the Synods of North Carolina and Virginia, or any order of the Board of Directors,) to which the students shall be subjected, and these they shall reduce to writing, and cause to be publicly read to the students at the commencement of every session. They shall determine the hours, at which the whole of the pupils shall morning and evening attend for social worship, and the manner in which, and the persons by whom the exercises of devotion shall be conducted.

Sec. 9. The faculty shall be empowered to dismiss from the Seminary any student, who shall prove unsound in his religious sentiments; immoral or disorderly in his conduct; or who may be, in their opinion, on any account whatever, a dangerous or unprofitable member of the institution. Subject to an appeal to the Board.

Sec. 10. Each member of the faculty shall have an equal vote.

Sec. 11. It shall be the duty of the Professors, to supply the pupils of the Institution with the preaching of the gospel, and the administration of the sacraments of the Christian Church, if this supply shall not, in the judgment of the Directors, be sufficiently furnished by a church or churches at the place where the Institution is established.

Article III.

OF THE COURSE OF STUDY.

I. *Oriental Literature.*

1st, The critical study of the Old and New Testament in the original languages.

2d, The study of Biblical criticism, including inquiries concerning the genuine text.

3d, Biblical literature.

4th, Biblical interpretation, including the principles of exegesis and the practical application of them to the interpretation of the Scriptures.

II. *Theology.*

1st, Natural Theology as introductory to the study of revealed.

2d, Revealed Theology:

I. Evidence that the Bible is the Word of God, with answers to the various objections of infidels of all classes.

II. The Theological facts recorded in the Bible, in the order of the three dispensations, the Patriarchal, the Mosaic, and the Christian, and the classification of these facts in the order of a system.

3d, Analysis of the Confession of Faith, and comparison of it with the Bible.

4th, Pastoral Theology.

III. *Ecclesiastical History and Polity.*

1st, History of Theological doctrine and its influence on religion and morality, from the foundation of the church to the commencement of the Christian era.

2d, History of the external form of the church and of the principles of ecclesiastical polity during the same period.

3d, History of Theological doctrine and its influence on religion, morals, literature, civil and religious liberty, from the Christian era to the present time.

4th, History of the external form of the church during the same period.

5th, The composition and delivery of sermons. Expository lectures.

IV. *Composition.*

The subject of composition and declamation shall be left to the discretion of the Professors, provided each student shall be required to read a composition and also to speak, either extemporaneously, or from memory, a piece of his own composition in the presence of one or more of the Professors, and one or more of the classes, at least twice during each term.

Article IV.

IMPROVEMENT IN PIETY.

It being the great object of this Seminary to train up ministers of the gospel thoroughly furnished to every good work, improvement in vital piety shall be steadily aimed at through the whole course of instruction.

Section 1. At the admission of any student into the Seminary, one of the Professors shall have a free and full conversation with such student on his experimental acquaintance with religion; also, the Professors shall frequently during the course of study pursued in this Seminary, take opportunities of renewing this conversation, and they shall consider themselves as sustaining a relation to the students similar to that of a pastor to his flock.

Sec. 2. When a student is about finally to leave the Seminary, the Professors shall certify to his Presbytery what they know of the piety and holiness of such student.

Sec. 3. The Sabbath shall be wholly employed in exercises, suited to produce a pious and devout frame of mind. And in addition to secret and social devotion, the Professors and students shall assemble together and spend some time in religious conference.

Article V.

OF THE STUDENTS.

Section 1. Every student, applying for admission into this Seminary, shall produce satisfactory testimonials that he possesses good natural talents, and is of a prudent and discreet deportment; that he is in full communion with some regular church, and he shall also furnish to the faculty satisfactory evidence of his proficiency in such branches of literature as are required of candidates by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, or wanting these, he shall submit to an examination on them by the faculty.

Sec. 2. The first six months of every student in the Seminary shall be considered as probationary; and if at the end of this period any student shall appear to the Professors not qualified to proceed in his studies, they shall so report him to the Board of Directors, who if they concur in opinion with the faculty, shall dismiss him from the Seminary.

Sec. 3. The hours of study and of recreation for the students, shall be fixed by the Professors, with the concurrence of the Directors, and every student shall pay a strict regard to the rules established on this subject.

Sec. 4. Every student before he takes his standing in the Seminary shall subscribe the following declaration, viz:

Deeply impressed with a sense of the importance of improving in knowledge, prudence and piety, in my preparation for the Gospel Ministry, I solemnly promise in reliance on divine grace, that I will faithfully and diligently attend on all the instructions of this Seminary; and that I will conscientiously and vigilantly observe all the rules and regulations specified in the plan for its instruction and government, so far as the same relate to the students; and that I will obey all the lawful requisitions, and readily yield to all the

wholesome admonitions of the Professors and Directors of the Seminary, while I shall continue a member of it.

Article VI.

There shall be two vacations in each year, to commence immediately after the close of each semi-annual examination, and to continue each six weeks.

BRIEF SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY OF THE

Union Theological Seminary.

In the year 1812, the Synod of Virginia appointed the Rev. Messrs Moses Hoge, Matthew Lyle, Samuel Brown and Conrad Speece, and Mr Crawford, Elder, a committee to prepare the plan of a Theological Seminary, to be instituted under the patronage of the Synod. At the same meeting of Synod, this committee reported the plan of a Seminary, which was adopted. It not being deemed expedient to organize the Institution permanently at that time, the Rev. Dr. Hoge, President of Hampden Sydney College, was appointed Professor of Theology *pro tem.* in the proposed Seminary, and its location was fixed temporarily in Prince Edward county. At the same time measures were taken to raise funds for the support of the Institution, and it went at once into partial operation. In 1815, the Institution was fixed permanently in Prince Edward county. A Board of Trustees was then appointed and they were directed to apply to the Legislature of Virginia for an act of incorporation. This application was made in the winter of 1815-16, and the prayer of the petitioners was denied. Meantime, and for several succeeding years, a number of students in Theology, were constantly attending upon the instructions of the Professor, and measures for enlarging the plan of the Seminary, and completing its endowments, were pursued with various success.

In the summer of 1820, the Professor, Dr. Hoge, was removed by death. At the succeeding meeting of Synod, the Rev. Dr.

A. Alexander, was appointed to succeed Dr. Hoge, as Professor of Theology. Dr. Alexander did not accept the appointment, and the Professor's chair remained vacant until 1822. In that year, the Seminary, with the funds which had been collected, were transferred by the Synod to the Presbytery of Hanover in perpetual trust, they being required to report annually to the Synod the condition, and management of the Institution. That Presbytery had contemplated the establishment of a Seminary previous to any movement of the Synod for that purpose, and had raised funds to a small amount for the support of a Professor. These were now added to those transferred to them by the Synod. The Presbytery appointed the Rev. J. H. Rice, D. D. Professor of Theology, and took immediate measures for re-organizing the Institution. Owing to various circumstances, the Seminary did not go into operation under the auspices of the Presbytery, until the 1st of January, 1824. On that day, the Professor elect was inaugurated, and a class in theology commenced their studies under his direction. In the course of that year and the year following, buildings were erected for the accommodation of the Professor and students; the services of an able teacher of the Oriental languages were engaged; a valuable library was obtained; and vigorous and successful measures were adopted for increasing the funds of the Institution.

In the year 1826, the Presbytery applied to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, to take the Seminary under their care; the Assembly acceded to their request and adopted the following resolutions, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That the General Assembly will agree to take the Theological Seminary of the Presbytery of Hanover under their care and control.

2. That the General Assembly will receive by their Trustees, and manage the permanent funds of the Theological Seminary of the Presbytery of Hanover, which may be put into their hands; which funds shall be kept entirely distinct from all others belonging to the General Assembly. But the General Assembly will not be responsible for any loss or diminution of said funds, which may

occur from the change of stocks, or from any other unavoidable cause.

3. That the General Assembly will agree to permit the Presbytery of Hanover to draw annually or quarter-yearly, the avails of their funds, and will give direction to their Trustees to pay any warrants for the same, which may be drawn by the President of the Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary of the Presbytery of Hanover; or by any other person named by the Presbytery.

4. That the General Assembly do also agree, that they will permit the Presbytery of Hanover to draw out, in part or in whole, the funds deposited in the hands of the Trustees of the General Assembly; provided, however, that the proposal to withdraw shall lie before the Presbytery at least one year previously to its being acted upon. The General Assembly shall also be at liberty to resign all charge and superintendence of the said Theological Seminary whenever they shall judge the interests of the Presbyterian Church to require it: in which case the General Assembly will direct their Trustees to return to the Presbytery of Hanover, all their funds, which may have been deposited in the hands of said Trustees, or convey them in trust to such individuals as may be named Trustees by the Presbytery of Hanover.

5. That the General Assembly shall have the right to exercise a general control over the Theological Seminary of the Presbytery of Hanover: that is, they shall have a negative on all appointments to the offices of Professors and Trustees in said Seminary; and on all general laws or rules adopted by the Presbytery for its government.

6. That therefore the Presbytery of Hanover shall annually send up to the General Assembly, a detailed report of all their transactions relating to said Theological Seminary: on which report a vote of approbation or disapprobation shall be taken by the General Assembly, and all appointments or enactments of said Presbytery or of the Board of Trustees acting under their authority, which may be rejected by the General Assembly, shall be null and void. But the authority of the General Assembly over the Seminary shall be merely negative: they shall not originate

any measures or give any special directions for the government of the Institution.

7. That if it shall appear to the General Assembly that doctrines contrary to the standards of the Presbyterian Church are inculcated in the said Seminary, or that in any other respect it is so managed as to be injurious to the interests of truth, piety, and good order, the General Assembly may appoint visiters to examine into the state of the said Seminary, and to make a full report to them thereon.

8. That if the General Assembly shall be convinced that any Professor in said Seminary inculcates doctrines repugnant to the word of God, and to our Confession of Faith, they shall require the Presbytery of Hanover to dismiss such Professor, and to appoint another in his place. And if said Presbytery neglect or refuse to comply with such requisition, the General Assembly will withdraw their patronage and superintendence from the Seminary; and will take such other steps as may be deemed necessary in the case.

9. That if the Presbytery of Hanover accede to these terms, then the Theological Seminary at Hampden Sydney College, shall be denominated, the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church under the care of the Presbytery of Hanover, and the aforesaid articles and conditions shall go into effect.

In 1827, the New York Professorship in the Seminary, was endowed by the liberality of friends of the Institution in the City of New York and its vicinity. In the fall of the same year the Presbytery anxious to extend as far as possible the usefulness of the Seminary, proposed to the Synods of Virginia and North Carolina, to surrender it to their joint management and control, with all its existing means and engagements, and in the relation which it then held to the General Assembly. To this proposition the two Synods acceded, and united in conducting the Institution upon the following plan, which received the sanction of the General Assembly at their next meeting. The style of the Institution was then changed to that which it now bears, viz: *The Union Theological Seminary of the General Assembly, under the care of the Synods of Virginia and North Carolina.*

ARTICLES OF UNION

Between the Synods of Virginia and North Carolina, in relation to the Union Theological Seminary.

ARTICLE I. The Seminary shall be under the joint management of the Synod of Virginia and the Synod of North Carolina.

ART. II. The said Institution shall be conducted by a Board of twenty-four Directors, consisting of 16 clergymen and 8 laymen, who shall be members of the Presbyterian Church; of these Directors, 8 clergyman, and 4 laymen shall be chosen by the Synod of Virginia, and a like number of clergymen and laymen by the Synod of North Carolina, in such manner as each body may approve. Vacancies occurring in the Board, by death, resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by the electors of that part of the Board in which such vacancies may occur, in the manner most approved by them. Six Directors shall be a quorum to do business, of whom three shall belong to each of the contracting parties respectively. The Board shall appoint their own officers, and meet after their organization, on their own adjournments. But no called meeting of the Board shall be held without giving to all the Directors four weeks previous notice.

ART. III. The powers and duties of the Board thus constituted shall be the same that belong to the present Board according to the plan of the Seminary adopted by the Presbytery, except as otherwise provided in these Articles.

ART. IV. Professors in the Seminary shall be elected by the Board in the following manner, viz: At a meeting of the Board for the purpose, the question shall be decided whether it is expedient that a Professor should be chosen or not. When this question shall be decided in the affirmative, the determination shall be communicated to the Synods at their next following stated meetings, and they shall respectively give their instructions to the Board, which instructions shall be binding. The Board shall at their next meeting following, proceed to elect a Professor, and in case any person voted for, shall receive the vote of two-thirds of the Board, he shall be declared to be duly elected, but if no person shall have two-thirds of the votes, then the names of those who have been

voted for, shall be reported to the next General Assembly, that out of these, the Assembly may proceed to the appointment of a Professor.

Art. V. Should the proposed arrangement between the General Assembly and the Presbytery of Hanover take place, then the style of the Seminary shall be changed in conformity with the terms of this agreement.

Art. VI. The contracting parties pledge themselves to each other, and to the Church, to co-operate zealously, heartily, and with all their might, to build up and support the Institution, thus placed under their joint care.

In December, 1828, the Rev. Hiram P. Goodrich, was elected Professor of Oriental Literature. The Board of Directors resolved at the same time, that the New York Professorship should be a foundation for the support of the Professor of Oriental Literature. In May, 1829, Mr. Goodrich was inaugurated to that Professorship. Since that time commodious houses have been erected for the Professors; one principally by the contributions of friends of the Seminary in Boston and its vicinity, and called the Boston House; the other, by subscriptions in the Synod of North Carolina, and called the North Carolina House. Additional buildings for the accommodation of students, are now (April, 1831,) nearly ready for occupancy. These harmonize with those previously erected, completing the plan, and affording accommodations for nearly 100 students. The library has been increased from time to time, and now contains about 3000 well selected volumes. Measures are now in train, which it is hoped will result in filling up the course of instruction, by the appointment of a Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Polity, at an early day. Under the care of a benign Providence, the Institution has prospered beyond the most sanguine expectations of its friends. It has already been made a blessing to the church, and it is destined, we trust, to send forth its salutary influences far and wide. To the blessing of the Great Head of the church and to the prayers of those who love the cause of truth and piety, it is affectionately commended.